

MINUTES  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)  
REMEMBER AND EXPLORE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

May 7, 2017

**1. DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER'S REMARKS:** Ms. Renea Yates, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC), opened the Remember and Explore subcommittee meeting. Ms. Yates noted that present in person were Major Shannon Way, ANC Strategic Planner and Mr. Timothy Keating, Alternate Designated Federal Officer, ACANC. Ms. Yates stated for the record that the subcommittee meeting is pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, codified in 10 U.S.C. § 4723. The subcommittee operates under authority and provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2, and 41 Code of Federal Regulation 102-3.50(d). The DFO, nominated by ANC Executive Director and appointed by the Secretary of the Army, is provided by ANC. Additionally, ANC provides administrative support to the subcommittee.

Ms. Yates reminded subcommittee members not to conduct any formal business by deliberating on any substantive matters which are before the Committee as a whole for vote. Additionally, the subcommittee will report to the Committee any recommendations or information relevant as a result of the day's work. She also noted that the meeting was open to the public and reminded the attending public that they were not allowed to present questions from the floor or speak to any issue under discussion by the subcommittee without permission of the Chair. She noted that any member of the public was eligible to file a written statement with the subcommittee in accordance with the published Federal Register notice provided in the binder at the entrance of the meeting room. Ms. Yates also noted that the proceedings were being recorded in written form, and that minutes of the meeting will be prepared.

Ms. Yates then reminded the members that in the July 12, 2017 report to the Secretary of the Army, the Advisory Committee recommended appointment of Mr. Farley as Chair of the Remember and Explore subcommittee. However, since the official appointment by SecArmy is pending, according to the Business Rules, the subcommittee meeting today must be chaired by a member approved by subcommittee member vote for an Acting Chairman until such time as an official appointment is made. A member proposed Mr. Farley for the position of Acting Chair, another member seconded, and all members voted in favor of Mr. Farley Chairing the meeting as Acting Chairman. The DFO then noted for the record that the subcommittee voted for Mr. Farley to chair today's meeting of the Remember and Explore subcommittee.

The meeting was called to order at 0900.

**2. ROLL CALL:** Ms. Yates noted a quorum for the record with the following members in attendance:

Secretary of the Army Nominees: Ms. Rose Duval, Mr. Mark Farley (Chair), Mr. Ronald Fetherson, Ms. Debra Fix, and Ms. Ryan Manion

MINUTES  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)  
REMEMBER AND EXPLORE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

May 7, 2017

The following members were not present:  
Mr. Robert Hess and Mr. Chet Edwards.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:** Mr. Mark Farley, Acting Chairman opened by welcoming all members, thanking them for their service, and sharing his thoughts regarding the extremely important issues before the subcommittee.

4. **PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:** The DFO announced that the minutes from the November 8, 2017 Remember and Explore Subcommittee meeting were available for review in the strategic documents binders on the meeting tables throughout the room.

5. **TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER ANNIVERSARY:** Dr. Carney, ANC Historian briefed the subcommittee regarding ANC projects to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the Tomb. Originally dedicated in 1921, the Centennial anniversary event is planned for November 11, 2021. He noted plans included exhibits in the Welcome Center and Memorial Amphitheater as well as a commemorative pamphlet which will be produced in conjunction with the Center for Military History (CMH). He noted other significant historical events taking place include the Sesquicentennial of Memorial Day remembrance at ANC, and the Centennial remembrance of WWI Armistice Day on November 11, 2018. The timeline and milestones for the exhibits include contracting package development and delivery to Mission Installation Contracting Command (MICC) Fort Belvoir in the fall of 2018, contract award in the summer of 2019 with initial design phase completion in the fall of 2019. He noted that planned government-provided content will be issued to the contractor by spring 2020, final design completed by fall 2020, final government approval of content and design by spring 2021, and installation in the fall of 2021 for a November 11, 2021 Centennial event. The subcommittee will be provided periodic updates as the project progresses.

6. **TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER REPAIR UPDATE:** COL Peloquin, ANC Engineering presented the subcommittee with an update on the status of repairs since the subcommittee last visited the Tomb to receive an update during the October 24, 2016 meeting. He noted that the work done to repair damage and deterioration prior to the October 2016 visit was superior to the repair work previously done and that the repairs were stable. He briefed that ANC Engineering continues to monitor that status of repairs and examines the Tomb regularly for any new indications of damage or disrepair. Answering a question regarding bio-film organic growth on the Tomb and the Memorial Amphitheater, he reminded the subcommittee that the problem is not unique to ANC and a study of the problem is ongoing. Many memorials in the Metro area are subject to this type of growth, notably the Jefferson Memorial. He briefed that new techniques were being developed included laser cleaning which initially appears to work well, but is almost prohibitively time consuming at this stage of development. The subcommittee requested to revisit the Tomb and Amphitheater during the next

MINUTES  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)  
REMEMBER AND EXPLORE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

May 7, 2017

subcommittee meeting if possible.

**7. ANC EVENTS AND CEREMONIES - SPRING UPDATE:** Mr. Migliara, ANC Events and Ceremonies briefed the subcommittee regarding events at the cemetery to date. He noted that ANC hosts approximately 4 million visitors while simultaneously conducting nearly 7,000 interments and inurnments annually which produces a continual challenge to strike a balance between private services and public services in a National Shrine. He noted that as of May 1, 2018 ANC security has screened nearly 1.2 million visitors and over 90,000 vehicles. Significant events during this period include four Medal of Honor recipient committal services and a memorial monument dedication for the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association. Upcoming events include Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances, Wreaths Across America and a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial event for Robert F. Kennedy. Concern was raised that the increasing number of public participants in the Wreaths Across America is creating difficulty for Gold Star family members. Because of the sheer volume of wreath-laying attendees, Gold Star families have been redirected at entry points to ANC only to arrive too late to place a wreath at a loved one's gravesite. The DFO noted the issue would be raised with ANC staff and potential solutions discussed with the subcommittee during the next meeting.

**8. ANC PRIVATE MARKER POLICY UPDATE:** Ms. Rojas, ANC Interment Services briefed the subcommittee on a recent change to policy regarding placing private markers at ANC. She reminded the subcommittee that perpetual care of private markers is the responsibility of the family of the deceased. There are currently 18,266 private markers located in 13 authorized sections of ANC. Beginning in December 2017, no new private markers will be erected. Additionally, requests to replace government markers with private markers are being denied. The change in policy reflects the lack of available space and accountability challenges with maintenance of private markers. Title 38 requires that all individuals interred at ANC must be publically commemorated, there exist 874 private markers at ANC that do not fully commemorate all decedents interred at that site. Additionally, many older private markers are prone to failing or being damaged by weather. Accountability and maintenance becomes problematic with private markers when numerous attempts to contact responsible family members / next of kin are unsuccessful. In these instances, unplanned resources must be used to maintain the iconic nature of ANC.

**9. MEETING ADJOURNED.** The Chair then called for any other business. Hearing none, he called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made and seconded. All members voted in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 1110.

  
MARK FARLEY

MINUTES  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)  
REMEMBER AND EXPLORE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

May 7, 2017

Acting Chairman